CERD

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

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Meeting of the States Parties

RULES OF PROCEDURE

Of the Meetings of the States Parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Adopted at the First Meeting of the States Parties on 10 July 1969 and amended at the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties on 29 April 1987

I. Representation and credentials

Rule 1. Each State Party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, hereinafter referred to as the Convention, shall be represented at the Meeting of States Parties, hereinafter referred to as the Meeting, by an accredited representative; if more than one representative is named, one shall be designated as the head of the delegation. Each delegation may also include such alternate representatives and advisers as may be required.

Rule 2. The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General if possible not less than one week before the date fixed for the opening of the Meeting. The credentials shall be issued by the Head of State or Government or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. The Secretary-General shall report to the Meeting on the credentials.

Rule 3. Pending the decision of the Meeting upon the report on credentials, the representatives of the participating States Parties shall be entitled provisionally to participate in the Meeting.

II. Officers

Rule 4. The Meeting shall elect a Chairman and one to four Vice-Chairmen from among the representatives of the States Parties.

Rule 5. If the Chairman is absent from a meeting or any part thereof, a Vice-Chairman nominated by him shall preside. The Vice-Chairman, when acting as Chairman, shall have the same powers and duties as the Chairman.

Rule 6. The Chairman or Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman may in his capacity as representative appoint one of his alternates or advisers to participate in the proceedings and to vote in the meetings in his place. In such a case, the Chairman or Acting Chairman shall not vote.

III. Secretariat

Rule 7. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be responsible for making the arrangements connected with the Meeting. He or his representatives may make either oral or written statements to the Meeting concerning any question under consideration.

IV. Conduct of business

Rule 8. A quorum shall be constituted by the representatives of two thirds of the States Parties to the Convention.

Rule 9. The Chairman shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting, and at such meetings shall direct the discussions, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, announce decisions, rule on points of order and, subject to these rules of procedure, have complete control of the Meeting. In exercising these functions the Chairman shall remain under the authority of the Meeting.

V. Voting

Rule 10. Each State Party represented at the Meeting shall have one vote.

Rule 11. For the purposes of these rules, the phrase "representatives of States Parties to the Convention present and voting" means representatives casting an affirmative or negative vote. Representatives who abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

Rule 12. Decisions of the Meeting shall be made by a majority of the representatives present and voting except as regards the election of the Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination which shall be conducted in accordance with rules 13, 14 and 15 of these rules of procedure.

Rule 13. The 18 members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination who shall be experts of high moral standing and acknowledged impartiality, shall be elected from a list of persons nominated by the States Parties and submitted by the Secretary-General, in conformity with the Convention, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of the different forms of civilization as well as of the principal legal systems. Each State Party may nominate one person from among its nationals.

Rule 14. Elections of members of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination shall be held by secret ballot.

Rule 15. The persons elected to the Committee shall be those nominees who obtain in the first ballot the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.

VI. Languages

Rule 16. Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish shall be the official and the working languages of the Meeting.

VII. Records

Rule 17. Official records of the Meeting shall be drawn up by the Secretariat of the United Nations in the working languages.

Rule 18. The text of all formal decisions adopted by the Meeting shall be distributed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the official languages as soon as possible after the Meeting to all States Parties and all States eligible to become Parties to the Convention.

VIII. Publicity

Rule 19. The meetings shall be held in public unless decided otherwise.

IX. Reference to rules of procedure of the General Assembly

Rule 20. Any procedural matter arising at meetings which is not covered by these rules shall be dealt with by the Chairman in the light of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly which may be applicable to the matter at issue.

X. Amendments

Rule 21. These rules of procedure may be amended by a decision of the Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention, provided that the amendment is not inconsistent with the provisions of the Convention.